

across the border into Canada and there they could buy the same prescription drugs at a small percentage of the price of the prescription drugs in this country. These are the same pills, made by the same company, often actually made in the United States and then shipped 5 miles north into Canada. Yet, if U.S. consumers were to buy them in the United States, they are charged much higher prices.

Is that fair? No. If this is truly a global economy, then it seems to me that pharmacists in this country ought to be able to access those same drugs in any market in the world and pass the savings on to their customers. That would, in my judgment, force the pharmaceutical industry to reprice their products in the United States.

As I said when I started, I want the pharmaceutical industry to make money. I want them to do good pharmaceutical. The Wall Street Journal calls the profits of the pharmaceutical industry "the envy of the corporate world." Why? At least in part, it seems to me, it is because the U.S. consumer is charged very, very high prices for the same drug that is marketed in the rest of the world at a much lower cost. I have introduced a piece of legislation, the International Prescription Drug Parity Act, that I and a bipartisan group of cosponsors are going to try to get passed in this Congress to address this problem.

These issues of pharmaceutical drug costs and a prescription drug benefit in Medicare are very important issues. Lifesaving medicine is only able to save lives if people can afford to have access to that medicine. Too many Americans find these prices are out of their reach. Too many senior citizens living on fixed incomes are finding they are not able to afford the medicines that are necessary for them to prolong their lives, to improve their lives, and to treat their diseases or illness. We in Congress can do something about that. But I would say this. Even as we try to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, we must find a way to put some downward pressure on prescription drug prices and provide some fairness relative to what the rest of the world pays for the same prescription drugs.

Mr. President, I again thank the Senator from Iowa for the courtesy. I know the bankruptcy bill is on the floor.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Are we still in morning business?

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It would be appropriate to extend morning business. Under the order we are to go to S. 625.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2015 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### YONGYI SONG

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about a distinguished Pennsylvanian, the librarian from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, Mr. Yongyi Song, who was greeted tumultuously in Philadelphia on Saturday afternoon when he returned from the People's Republic of China after having been held in custody there since August 7.

Mr. Yongyi Song came to the United States some 10 years ago and has become a world-renowned scholar on the Cultural Revolution. In addition to his regular duties at Dickinson College, he has published extensively on the Cultural Revolution.

Last August, he and his wife Helen made a trip to the People's Republic of China so that he could continue his research. While there, he was taken into custody on August 7. Thereafter, his wife was released, but on Christmas Eve he was charged with transmitting state secrets.

A careful analysis of the case raises very severe questions as to whether there was ever any substance to the charges. A campaign was waged by scholars and academicians and by colleges and universities across the land to obtain his release. Dickinson College retained a very distinguished attorney, Jerome Cohen, an expert in Chinese affairs, who took up the cause.

A resolution was submitted last Wednesday by this Senator with quite a number of cosponsors—Senator BIDEN, the ranking member on the Foreign Relations Committee, being the principal cosponsor; in addition, Senator SANTORUM and others.

After consultation with Secretary of State Albright and others in the State Department, I sought a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador, which I had last Friday late in the morning.

Before going to the meeting, I heard rumors that Yongyi Song might be released. While I met with the Chinese Ambassador, I was delighted to find that he handed me a piece of paper announcing Mr. Song's release, and gave me the word that Mr. Song would soon be on a Northwest airliner headed for Detroit, and ultimately for Philadelphia.

We thank the People's Republic of China and we thank the Chinese Ambassador for Mr. Yongyi Song's release. We regret that he ever was taken into custody. But when he returned and commented to the news media, on a galaxy of cameras—both television and still cameras—and to many newspaper reporters, Mr. Song commented that he was not physically abused. He said he

was subjected to a good bit of mental torture. He disputed the representations by the People's Republic of China that he had confessed or implicated others. But as Shakespeare would say, "All's well that ends well."

It has been reported that this is the first time there has been a release of anybody who was charged with stealing state secrets. It is my hope that this is a significant step forward for the People's Republic of China to recognize human rights. In an era when the People's Republic of China is seeking permanent most-favored-nation status and seeking entry into the World Trade Organization, it is my hope that they will accept at least minimal norms for due process, so that if someone is taken into custody, that person is entitled to confer with counsel, should be entitled to notice of the charges, should be entitled to an open trial, and should have the requirement that evidence be presented in an open forum before any determination of guilt.

The detention of Mr. Yongyi Song from August 7 until January 28, in my judgment, was excessive. But we are glad to have Yongyi Song back at his duties at Dickinson College and glad this has ended favorably. We do hope this is a first step in a continuing recognition by the People's Republic of China to give appropriate consideration to human rights.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article entitled "Scholar Back in U.S. After China Detention" from The New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 2000]

#### SCHOLAR BACK IN U.S. AFTER CHINA DETENTION

(By Philip Shenon)

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 29—An American-based Chinese scholar who had been jailed in China for nearly six months returned to the United States today to say that he had been "mentally tortured" by Chinese security agents who demanded that he confess to espionage and implicate others.

"They didn't torture me physically, but I should say that they mentally tortured me," the scholar, Song Yongyi, a research librarian at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., said after he was reunited with his wife in a tearful scene at Philadelphia's international airport. "It was very ruthless."

"When I come back to the United States, I really feel at home now," said Mr. Song, who was taken into custody by the Chinese last summer, only weeks before he had been scheduled to be sworn in as an American citizen. "Even though China gave me birth, the United States gave me spirit."

In an airport news conference and in a separate interview, the 50-year-old librarian, a specialist in the documents of the murderous decade from 1966 to 1976 known as the Cultural Revolution, denied a claim by the Chinese government that he was freed after he confessed to spying.

"I did not confess to anything," he said, crediting his release to pressure on Beijing from members of Congress who threatened to hold up vital trade legislation, and from Western scholars who campaigned for his freedom.